

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application.

The amendment to paragraph [001] of the Specification has been made except to provide a cross-reference to U.S. Application No. 10/378,836 filed on March 5, 2003.

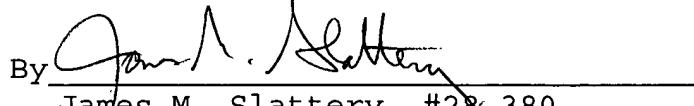
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
James M. Slattery, #28,380  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000